



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

Ref: 11/4/1/2/11

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

*Tuesday, 3 August 2021 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams*

**PRESENT**

**Members**

**Democratic Alliance**

Baartman, DM (DA)  
Maseko, LM  
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

**African National Congress**

Marran, P

**Freedom Front Plus**

Marais, PJ

**Apologies**

Herron, BN (GOOD)  
Bredell, A (Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning)

**The following persons were in attendance:**

**Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning**

Mr P van Zyl, Head of Department  
Ms K Shippey, Chief Director - Environmental Sustainability  
Ms M Laros, Director - Biodiversity and Coastal Management  
Mr A Gaffoor, Director - Strategic and Operational Support  
Mr A Ackhurst, Director - Biodiversity and Coastal Management  
Mr R Mukanye, Director - Sustainability

## **CapeNature**

Dr R Omar, Chief Executive Officer  
Ms C Birss, Executive Director - Biodiversity Conservation  
Dr A Turner, Restoration Ecologist

## **WCPP Officials**

Ms S Niekerk, Procedural Officer  
Ms N Mshumpela, Committee Assistant  
Mr S Hassam, Information Technology Assistant  
Ms C Morris, Information Technology Assistant

### **1. Opening and welcome**

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee, the Departmental and CapeNature officials as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

### **2. Briefing by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Aviation Fuel Study Undertaken and its Biomass Programme**

#### **2.1 Aviation Fuel Study**

The Department provided the Committee with the pre-feasibility study of ethanol supply for the production of sustainable aviation fuel by outlining the study's background, main objectives, partnerships and also providing a summary of the ethanol supply cost for single and combination feedstock scenarios. Stakeholders involved were mentioned as well as alternative feedstock options in the form of various wastes that could be converted to sustainable advanced liquid fuels.

#### **2.2 Biomass Programme**

The Department provided the Committee with the rationale for a biomass economy. The strategic context and status of the Departmental Biomass Programmes were outlined that focused on various business models for Biochar, Activated Carbon and Wood Vinegar sourced from alien invasive plant clearing. The value chain and benefits regarding alien invasive plants as well as the market opportunities for the above-mentioned commodities were provided. In this regard the Department provided the Committee with an overview of the Karatara Catchment and Restore Eden Projects.

The Committee deliberated.

### **3. Briefing by CapeNature on the various species of Blue Gum**

CapeNature provided the Committee with an overview of Eucalyptus in the Western Cape by outlining its invasive potential and its classification as well as its influence on the ecosystem.

The Committee deliberated.

#### 4. Resolutions/Actions

- 4.1 The Committee **RESOLVED** that it would, at a future date, conduct an oversight visit to the Southern Cape to observe:
- 4.1.1 Progress and implementation of the Karatara Catchment Pilot Project and the Restore Eden Project;
- 4.1.2 The effect of the Knysna fires and the progress made in reclaiming land by means of alien vegetation clearing which could possibly ensure a future supply of biomass for some of the Department's initiatives; and
- 4.1.3 The status of waste to energy projects within the Department given the need for and importance of energy production.
- 4.2 The Committee **REQUESTED** that, in light of the requirement that assurance must be obtained to ensure that products produced at independent timber mills were harvested equitably, that people were beneficiated and that restoration was associated with the process, the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (Provincial Minister) provides it with a response in terms of who the responsible entity is for providing such assurance on the quality of the wood produced at such timber mills.
- 4.3 In light of the above and dependent on the Provincial Minister's response, the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Provincial Minister, if the Department and/or Provincial Minister is responsible for granting the assurance, should give consideration to providing such assurance particularly in respect of the Harkerville Timber Mill and if it is the responsibility of the National Department or other Entity, that the Provincial Minister engages the National Minister or Entity for the provision of such assurance.

#### 5. General

- 5.1 The Procedural Officer provided the Committee with feedback on the submissions received thus far regarding the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill [B 2–2021].
- 5.2 The Committee raised areas of concern and matters that should be focused on and agreed on the following actions:
- 5.2.1 The Committee **REQUESTED** that:
- 5.2.1.1 A detailed report be obtained from the relevant department on the status of the Snail Farm Project that was established in 2007 in Saldanha Bay outlining the lessons learnt from this project; and
- 5.2.1.2 The Department of Agriculture provides it with a written report on the status of the Emerging Farmer Development Programme outlining the number of farms being assisted, the location of these farms, farms experiencing challenges, farms experiencing success as well as the type and level of support from the Provincial and respective National Department that will improve the prospects of some of these emerging farmers.
- 5.2.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** that, after receiving the afore-mentioned information, it would be in position to make an informed selection on identifying farms to which oversight visits will be conducted.
- 5.2.3 The Committee **FURTHER RESOLVED** to invite the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning to brief it on the Draft Western Cape Inclusionary Housing Policy Framework with specific reference to content, impact, public consultation process and public comments received as well as the extent to which public input will be incorporated into the Policy Framework.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the members, officials and guests for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 15:25.

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**MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Date: .....24 August 2021.....